Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01538 060425Z

20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NSCE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 OMB-01 /094 W ------ 044692

R 060400Z SEP 74 FM USLO PEKING TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2356 INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG AMEMBASY TAIPEI AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: SPECULATION ABOUT OCTOBER 1

- 1. THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION IN PEKING ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR A MAJOR PRC CELEBRATION OF ITS TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY ON OCTOBER 1. POLISH EMBOFF TOLD US CHINESE ARE SAYING THAT LEVEL OF OBSERVANCE WILL BE GRANDER THAN LAST YEAR, BUT A MAJOR BLOWOUT IS NOT PREDICTED. ANOTHER REPORT ATTRIBUTED TO CHINESE IS THAT IT WILL BE A BIGGER SCALE CELEBRATION THAN NORMAL BECAUSE IT IS A FIVE YEAR EVENT, BUT IT WILL NOT BE ON THE SCALE OF TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARIES WHICH ARE MORE IMPORTANT IN TRADITIONAL CHINESE TERMS. MFA'S LIN P'ING TOOK ESSENTIALLY SAME LINE WITH US.
- 2. MEANWHILE, PEKING IS UNDERGOING A MINOR SPRUCING UP WHICH OCCURS ANNUALLY BEFORE OCTOBER 1. BILLBOARDS CONTAINING MAO QUOTATIONS ARE BEING REPAINTED AND THE GATE TO CHUNG NAN HAI HAS BEEN COMPLETELY REDONE. IN THE PROVINCES, A USLO OFFICER HAS SEEN BANNERS EXHORTING THE POPULACE TO PREPARE FOR TWENTY-FIFTY ANNIVERSARY OF PRC.

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3. CHINESE ARE ALSO TELLING PEOPLE THAT THERE WILL BE A LARGE

NUMBER OF FOREIGN FRIENDS IN PEKING FOR THE OCCASION. WE
RECENTLY WERE TOLD THAT EVERY HOTEL ROOM IN PEKING IS BOOKED, AND
LAST NIGHT WE LEARNED THAT THE NEW PEKING HOTEL, THE TALLEST
STRUCTURE IN THE CITY, WILL OPEN SEPTEMBER 10, IN TIME TO HOUSE
THE INFLUX OF "FRIENDLY PERSONNAGES."
BRUCE

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